

REMARKS**I. Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowman et al. (US 6,169,986).

No amendments are made to the application. Claims 1-5 remain pending in the present application, with claim 1 being independent claim. Applicants believe that this reply does not introduce new matter. Reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

II. Response to Objections and Rejections**A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Office Action, at pages 2-5, rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowman et al. (US 6,169,986). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

To anticipate a claim, the prior art reference must teach each and every element of the claim. M.P.E.P. § 2131.

The present invention is directed to a method of narrow search for books on the Internet. To carry out a narrow search, a customer first enters a search term in the vendor's web page to generate a search result. The search result is stored in a narrow database in the vendor server system. The customer then enters a narrow search term to access the narrow database to generate a narrow search result. The narrow search result is again stored in the narrow database in the

vendor server system. The customer can view the narrow search result and again enter another narrow search term in order to even further narrow down the search. The steps can be repeated until either the narrow database is exhausted or a desired book is located.

The independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, the steps of:

(e) under control of a customer system, displaying the search result and means for entering a narrow search term; [and]

(f) under control of the vendor server system, in response to the narrow search term entered by the customer in the means for entering a narrow search term, accessing the narrow database to match the narrow search term with the identifying information and retrieve a narrow search result comprising the book identifying information matching the narrow search term[.]

(Emphases added).

Bowman et al., however, is directed to a method with steps different from the above. Bowman et al. teach that, upon “a field search on the terms ‘OUTDOOR TRAIL,’” a set of related terms has been “incorporated” (but not entered by the customer like in the claimed invention) into a respective “hyperlink 910” (but not a means for the customer to enter a narrow search term like in the claimed invention) (column 14, lines 26-30; Fig. 9, reference 910).

Apparently, a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention would consider that the step of clicking on a “hyperlink” with a set of related terms that has already been “incorporated” into the hyperlink is different from the step of entering “a narrow search term” by the customer in the “means for entering a narrow search term.”

Therefore, Bowman et al. do not anticipate claim 1, since Bowman et al. do not disclose each and every element of the claim. Consequently, Bowman et al. do not anticipate claims 2-5, due to their dependency on claim 1, as a matter of law.


Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds of rejection have been addressed and the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-5 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Dated: August 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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